



# “Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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## Be sure to make a nomination for HUD's Best Practices!

### *What's New in HUD Policy?*

#### **CHDO Set Aside Provides Funding for Affordable Housing to Community and Faith-based Nonprofits**

With a 15 percent set aside for nonprofit organizations, the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is one of the easiest ways for community and faith-based nonprofits to access HUD funds for the purpose of providing affordable housing.

HOME is the largest Federal block grant allocated to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. Each year it allocates more than **\$1 billion to State and local governments, called participating jurisdictions (PJs), nationwide**. PJs must set aside a minimum of 15 percent of their HOME allocations for housing development activities in which qualified nonprofits are the owners, developers, and/or sponsors of the housing development.

A nonprofit must be certified as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO - pronounced *chodo*) to access HOME money. Nonprofits interested in learning how to become certified as a CHDO should contact the **Office of Community Planning and Development in their local HUD office**. Additionally, interested nonprofits should contact the local government entity administering the HOME funds. Specific local HUD and local government contact information can be found on the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/cpd/home/contacts/index.html>.

A CHDO, acting as an owner, sponsor, or developer may undertake any of the following: acquisition and/or rehabilitation of rental housing, new construction of rental housing, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of home buyer properties, new construction of home buyer properties, and direct financial assistance to purchasers of HOME-assisted housing sponsored or developed by a CHDO with HOME funds. HOME funds cannot be used for rehabilitation of existing homeowners' properties, tenant-based rental assistance, or providing down payment assistance unless the project was developed using CHDO set aside funds.

For more information on the HOME program, visit the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/cpd/home/homeweb.html>. Additionally, HUD publishes a general program guide and brochure about HOME and a guide to planning and implementing specific types of HOME-funded activities, which highlights 14 model programs. **These materials are available free from Community Connections (1-800-998-9999).**

### *How Do I Nominate a Nonprofit for a Best Practice Award?*

HUD's prestigious Best Practice awards are scheduled to be presented at the **Best Practice Symposium on August 7 - 10, in Washington, DC**. If you know of a community or faith-based organization that has achieved great levels of success as explained on page 4 in this newsletter, please nominate that organization for a Best Practice award. Last year, 22 faith-based organizations were nominated and five won awards. This year, **HUD hopes to increase faith-based winners**.

The process for nominating a nonprofit has been improved. Nomination submissions are now being accepted via the Best Practices Information System (BPIS). This system is located on HUD's web site at [www.hud.gov/bestpractices/bpnom.html](http://www.hud.gov/bestpractices/bpnom.html).

BPIS contains detailed instructions and background information on previous nominations that received awards. BPIS tracks the nominations throughout the entire review process and provides information on Best Practices across the country. Nominations should be submitted electronically. HUD will accept paper nominations in only specific situations.

If you are a 'faith-based' organization, be sure to check off 'faith-based' on the nomination form. **The nomination process ends May 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you have questions, contact **Sharon Sherron** at (202) 708-1992.

## **Why Should Faith and Community-based Organizations Strive to Become Best Practices?:**

### **Interview with Deputy Director of Best Practices Jim Cunningham**

Over the last several years, HUD has begun systematically to recognize and celebrate “Best Practices” among recipients of HUD funding to encourage replication of successful responses to community problems. Recently, the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships contacted Jim Cunningham, Deputy Director of the Best Practices leadership team to learn more about this important effort.

#### **CCIP: Why does HUD invest so much time and effort to recognize “Best Practices” in Community Development?**

**JAC:** Recognizing Best Practices serves two important purposes. First, Best Practices help to improve the delivery of HUD programs by seeking out innovative and tested ways to better implement HUD programs. By showcasing these Best Practices, they can be replicated by other HUD partners and result in improved performance across the country. HUD views the Best Practices program as an essential management tool for delivering technical assistance. Second, it serves to recognize the great efforts put forth by HUD partners and HUD employees in providing services to communities across the country.

#### **CCIP: How long has HUD held an annual Best Practices Conference?**

**JAC:** The Best Practice concept originated in HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). The first CPD symposium was held in 1997. The 1999 Best Practices and Technical Assistance Symposium, held in Kansas City, was the first Department-wide event.

#### **CCIP: What have participants at past conferences found most valuable about the conference?**

**JAC:** The most valuable experience we’ve heard from participants is the ability to network with other professionals within the housing and community development industry. Participants relish the opportunity to hear new and different ways to accomplish tasks and form relationships for future contact.

#### **CCIP: What will be new this year?**

**JAC:** The Department is emphasizing the technical assistance aspect of Best Practices this year. The symposium will focus on ways to share and transfer knowledge to as many participants as possible. Workshops and symposium events will help foster that transfer of knowledge so that participants can return home and implement what they have learned.

#### **CCIP: Have faith-based organizations been recognized at the Conference?**

**JAC:** In 1999, the Department received twenty-two nominations specifically identified as involving faith-based organizations. Two of the nominations were recognized as a Secretarial Best Practice: Strategies to Elevate People in Montgomery, Alabama and Ecumenical Housing Production Corp., in St. Louis, Missouri. An effort to reach out to the faith-based community by HUD’s Community Builders in Grand Rapids, Michigan also received recognition at the Secretary’s Representative level.

**This year’s Best Practices Symposium will be held August 7th through 10th in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hilton. For information on registration call 1-800-224-6761.**

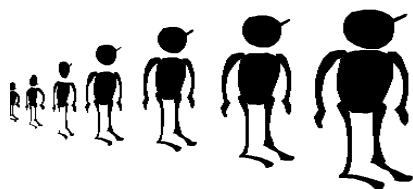
## Million Mom March

"We're looking for a few good moms," say the organizers of the **May 14, 2000 (Mother's Day) march against gun violence on Washington, DC** which is expected to draw a million individuals. Actually, they are casting the net a bit wider, anyone who has ever had a mom is invited. In addition to the march, an Interfaith Prayer service will take place on the Mall from 10:00 - 11:00 am.

The Million Mom March has a simple mission, to pressure Congress to pass responsible gun control measures by Mother's Day 2000. On May 14, a huge crowd of people will descend on Washington with one of two purposes: to either celebrate responsible gun control or to protest inaction on the part of Congress.

Like HUD, march organizers endorse safety locks for all handguns. Additionally, they want to license handgun owners and register all handguns, sensible 'cooling off' periods and background checks, and no-nonsense enforcement of gun laws.

For more information, visit [www.millionmommarch.com](http://www.millionmommarch.com).



### Center Staff:

**Joseph Hacala, S.J.**, Director  
**Jennifer Quinn**, Deputy Director  
**Loyd LaMois**, CB Fellow  
**Brian Siebenlist**, Policy Analyst  
**Shannon Hefter**, Outreach Specialist  
**Rhonda Dallas**, Graduate Intern  
**Cathy Leonard**, Project Assistant  
**Dorothy Matthews**, Information Specialist  
**Neil Walton**, Information Specialist

## HUD Conferences for Faith-based Organizations

Another Commitment to Justice conference is slated for **September 18-20, 2000 in Boston, MA**. A draft agenda and list of workshops, as well as materials from prior conferences will be posted at [www.hud.gov/cdc/commjust.html](http://www.hud.gov/cdc/commjust.html). To obtain more information, call **1-800-308-0395**.

The Faith Communities and Community Building: Commitment to Justice conference scheduled for **June 15** will be held in New York, NY. For conference registration call **1-800-998-9999**. For more information, please access [www.hud.gov/cdc.html](http://www.hud.gov/cdc.html).

The Center held the sixth in its series of "Commitment to Justice" conferences in **St. Louis, MO on April 28**.

The conference drew some 400 participants from across the Great Plains region and was a great success.



## The Financial Literacy Campaign: Strengthening Communities

Financial Literacy is a process through which individuals and families can shift their basic financial habits. It is a basic understanding of banking, savings and the importance of good credit that allows a low or moderate income individual or family to buy a home or start a small business, thereby encouraging increased economic stability in the community. Financial Literacy also addresses the socio-economic factors that shape our country. For some, entering the financial mainstream begins at a young age, with a weekly allowance or a part-time job. For others, the process begins much later, and is often harder to grasp.

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition created the Financial Literacy Campaign, a three tiered process, designed to bring low to moderate income communities, individuals, small and minority businesses into the financial mainstream. Increased financial literacy builds and strengthens relationships among community organizations, residents, small and minority businesses, and financial service providers.

The development of assets, large or small, is the first step in the dynamic process of introducing a person into the financial mainstream, increasing family stability, encouraging better consumer habits, and eventually increasing an individual's stake in the health and wealth of a community. Financial Literacy topics covered include:

**Financial Literacy Campaign Process,  
 Train-the-Trainer Courses,  
 Training Guides, Workbooks, and Other Resources,  
 Community-Lender Collaborations,  
 Financial Literacy Curriculum,  
 Special Projects,  
 Financial Management for Youth and  
 Transitioning.**

If you are interested in financial literacy, please contact the Financial Literacy Campaign Directors: **Michelle Dickens** at [mdickens@ncrc.org](mailto:mdickens@ncrc.org), 202-628-6688 ext. 3021, **Andrew Moss** at [amoss@ncrc.org](mailto:amoss@ncrc.org), 202-628-6688 ext. 3011, or **Larry Jackson** at [ljackson@ncrc.org](mailto:ljackson@ncrc.org), 713-672-9110 or visit <http://www.ncrc.org/>.



# Center Toolbox: Steps to Becoming a Best Practice

One of the best ways to ensure the creation or replication of a successful nonprofit is to uncover the underlying principles or universal truths which have been proven to be consistent throughout the country in other organizations.

If you are in the first stages of developing a nonprofit or have already been a nonprofit for sometime, this information will be useful to you because the principles included here ensure a successful enterprise. If you follow the principles listed to the best of your ability, you can be sure that your nonprofit will accomplish its mission.

A HUD Best Practice is defined as a program or project, management tool, and/or technique that fulfills at least two of the following characteristics:

- generates a significant positive impact on those it is intended to serve or manage,
- is replicable in other areas of the country, region, or local jurisdiction,
- demonstrates the effective use of partnerships among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private businesses,
- displays creativity in addressing a problem, and demonstrates effective leveraging of resources.

There are four basic stages of development that HUD refers to as the "Systematic Life Cycle." These include the stages of: *Assessment, Planning and Design, Implementation and Operation, and Monitoring and Evaluation*. Each stage is independent and must be followed in the specified order for success. More important, are the six cat-

egories or principles which form the basis of success in nonprofits. These principles are:

## 1) Sustainability

A process can only have sustainability when it is supported by people, resources, policies and procedures that allow it to grow and prosper over many years. A sustainable program operates long after its original demonstration or seed funding has run out, remaining viable even when its founders have moved on.

## 2) Partnership

A partnership is a collaborative of persons with common interests and goals, insights, skills, resources, and connections to create a group capability greater than the sum of its parts. Resident involvement and participation is essential for success.

## 3) Inspiration

Inspiration is the energy that drives positive change. Motivation provides people with a reason for action. Inspiration both triggers and sustains the motivation that drives people to transform existing conditions, and is critical.

## 4) Responsible Management

Responsible management refers to the direction or control of actions of a group or organization in a *reliable, dependable* way. Responsibility includes being legally and ethically accountable for the welfare of others. Unless programs are well-managed *every day*, the results will fall short of serving the needs of the residents and/or the community.

## 5) Integration

Holistic and systemic solutions are required to address adequately the complex needs of low and moderate income

residents. Keep in mind that all parts of a system are interconnected and that each part plays a role in the whole system.

## 6) Transformation

Transformation brings about fundamental changes in the make-up of someone or something by altering its core being or foundation. Transformation involves the belief that one is connected to the whole, that one becomes an integral member of a group that is working to reach common goals.

HUD seeks to assist you in making valuable contacts by providing the following Best Practice examples in your region:

**New England:** Boston Home Center, Boston, MA

**New York/New Jersey:** Asian Americans for Equality, Flushing, NY

**Southeast/Caribbean:** Self Help Community Advantage

**Rocky Mountain:** Crooked Tree Transitional Housing, Denver, CO

**Mid-Atlantic:** If I Had a Hammer, Wise County, VA

**Pacific/Hawaii:** Acorn-Prescott Neighborhood Transportation Plan, Oakland, CA

**Northwest/Alaska:** Quinuault Tribal Homeownership Program

**Southwest:** Affordable Housing (NOAH), Norman, OK

**Midwest:** Faith-based Best Practice, Grand Rapids, MI

**Great Plains:** Ecumenical Housing Production Corporation, St. Louis, MO

For more information, access the Best Practice web site at [www.hud.gov/bestpractices/index.html](http://www.hud.gov/bestpractices/index.html).